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venience of the foreigners visiting the country. A great number of people lived by running canoes and by trading along the water-ways and they could not get a living even with the day's hard work, and not unoften, their difficulties were enhanced by the impressment resorted to on occasions of official tours, &c. Further it would press hard on the labourers and the poor section of the people who have not the wherewithal to pay tolls. Even school-boys would have to pay toll in addition to the recently enhanced school-fees. True, a similar Act obtained in British India, but the analogy, he said, would not hold in view to the fewness of ferries and water-ways there, and the immense facilities of communication afforded by the Railway, and the arrangements in force there need not necessarily be applied to this country differently conditioned as it is. If it was thought necessary that the Bill should be passed, the member suggested that the following modifications might be made:—(*a*) That canoes kept for hire should alone be brought within the purview of the Bill; (*b*) that no fees should be levied on private boats kept for the use of the owners, on the principle of the Carriages Acts in British India which apply only to carriages used for conveying passengers for hire; (*c*) that no exemption should be made in the case of public servants and that exemption should be granted to school-masters and school-boys; (*d*) that in section 19 of the Bill, the description of vessels should be by length and size, and not by ton which is not easily understood; (*e*) that provision for appeals should be made; and (*f*) that the summary procedure for recovery of ferry charges and the punishments proposed for infringement were not justifiable and should be modified.

Mr. V. Parameswaran Tampi and *Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai* (Members, Mavelikara Taluk) supported the previous speaker.

Dewan's reply.—This Bill has passed the Select Committee stage and will come before the Legislative Council for final disposal at its next meeting. I am not in a position to hold out any hopes of giving up the Bill, but the suggestions made by the members for improving it are noted. There are several members of the Legislative Council present here and I daresay that they have heard and noted what the members have said. We shall try to make the Bill as reasonable and fair as we can.

26. Removal of unclaimed dead bodies.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) represented that the Police were compelling the poor to

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carry unclaimed dead bodies to the hospital and the burial ground.

Dewan's reply.—If specific instances of oppression are brought to the notice of the Superintendent of Police, he will enquire into them.

27. Election of non-official members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai also spoke on the present condition of the Legislative Council and said that, when the subject of the election of non-official members by the Popular Assembly was brought forward last year, the answer given was that the matter would be considered when rules were framed under section 5 of the Legislative Council Regulation. He observed that, if election by the Assembly was not acceptable, there were some organised representative institutions in the country and that it would not be a bad idea at all, if those organisations were asked to elect members to the Council.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the member are noted.

28. Assessment of court-fees on suits about immovable property and of stamp-duty on partition deeds.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer (Member, Shencottah Taluk) represented that the court-fees on suits relating to immovable property and the stamp duty on partition deeds should be calculated on the tax payable on the properties concerned and not on their values. Court-fees on suits for declaration of title to immovable property were being assessed on the value of the property, instead of at certain multiples of the assessment thereon as in British India. The latter, he said, would be more favourable to the litigant public than the present practice. He referred to the difficulty that, as soon as a suit was lodged, the defendant put forward a plea that the property was undervalued, whereupon a commission would be appointed and that meant expense. In regard to partition deeds, he said that they did not create any new rights and it would be well if the law be amended to admit of their being assessed at so many times the tax.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to court-fees, I have already said that a Bill to amend the existing Regulation is before the Legislative Council and I believe there is a provision in it to meet some of the difficulties mentioned by the member.

In regard to stamps, Government are not prepared to alter the stamp law in the direction indicated, as that may cause a large loss of revenue.

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